




GREATER LAS VEGAS ORCHID SOCIETY

THE ORCHID COLUMN


SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2007 2pm

COME AT 1 PM TO SETUP & BUY

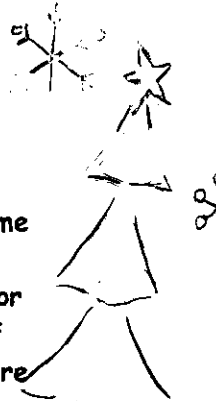
**EIGHTH ANNUAL WHITE
ELEHANT SALE**



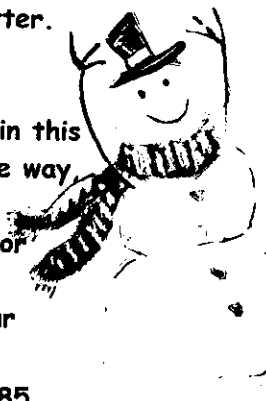
It is time once more for our annual white elephant sale, an event that earned more than \$1000 last year. COME EARLY SO THAT YOU CAN SET UP AND BROWSE AND BUY. ONE O'CLOCK WOULD BE GOOD. We are a very high-class club, and our junk is of the very best quality. Everyone brings in some unwanted treasure- wine, a holiday gift, a lamp, an unused bike, books, CD's, VHS's, DVD's, dishes, pictures, nick nacks, sporting equipment... Don't have anything elephantine? Buy an orchid or orchid stuff and donate that or take a nice orchid from your collection and bring it in. I have bought orchids that I am going to donate. You could, too! Wine or homemade things are always welcome. Start looking around now. It is great fun.



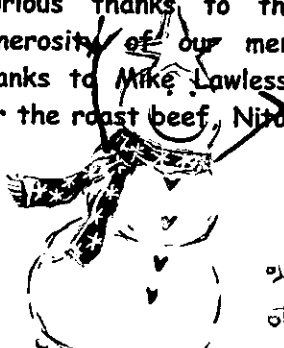
Thank you to all the folks who have paid 2007 dues. Some folks have even added a small donation, which was much appreciated. Leslie Doyle donated \$50 at the party-how nice! I even have had some anonymous donations. Single dues for 2007 are \$30, and couple (two folks residing at the same address..) dues remain \$40. You can pay at the January meeting or send a check made out to GLVOS to me at:
Carol Siegel 8601 Robinson Ridge Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89117. Don't know if you



paid? If there is an (07) after your name on the label on your envelope, you are paid up. If there is an (06), you paid for 2006 and need to pay for 2007 now. If there is an (*) after your name, you were a guest and need to pay if you want to Carol Siegel, Newsletter Editor join the club. I pay for the newsletter and postage myself, so if you are not going to join, please give me a call 254-4168 or email me growlove@cox.net so I don't keep sending you the newsletter.



Leslie Doyle, talented artist, will be making up our membership cards again this year. Thanks so much, Leslie. By the way Leslie is editor of the Silver State Gardener, a wonderful publication. For just \$5, you can have a year's subscription mailed to you. Pay at our meeting or email Leslie Tomatotomato@cox.net, 658-7585.



It was our best holiday party ever as our fun-loving club gathered for all the things we love best- music, mayhem, martinis and morchids (more orchids- can you ever have too many? NO!) The food was glorious thanks to the creativity and generosity of our members. A special thanks to Mike Lawless and Dan Mumau for the roast beef, Nita Bragg for the

ham, Linda and Joel Davidson for the fried turkeys, Bill Whaley for the smoked roast pork, and to me, too for music, food, and drinks. Through the generosity of members, we were able to donate two shopping carts of food to the Salvation Army. How nice of us!

The Martini Madness Bar was a big hit. We discovered we sang much better after a few martinis- and thirty-five bottles of champagne and wine. The real star of the party was Carol Mendocino, who didn't need any booze at all to steal the show. Her magnificent voice and subtle styling kept us all mesmerized as the very talented Mike and Adrianna Thurber accompanied her on keyboard and violin.

If that weren't enough, our two talented tarot card readers forecast a marvelous year for all of us (here's hoping...)

I recognized all the members who had done extra-special things with certificates of appreciation, and we thrilled to over 100 blooming orchids that Eileen and Alex McKyton ordered from Carmela's Orchids in Hawaii. We also had an extra special treat of orchids donated by the Mirage, Wynn, Treasure Island, Plant World, and English Garden Florists which were free to members. Thanks to Tony Billitere who picked up the orchids **WHEN HE HAD PNEUMONIA!!** Thanks, too, to Ed McCormick who brought them to my house the night before the party because poor Tony was sick. We love you guys! Orchids and champagne! What could be better!

Our club donated \$100 to Orchid Digest for their color issue, and our names will be mentioned in the next issue of the magazine.

In January, we have the great good fortune to welcome Jason Fischer of Orchids Limited Nursery in Minneapolis as our speaker on "Phragmipedium." You may remember the terrific talk he did last year on the orchids of Japan, especially *Neofinetia falcata*. His plants are outstanding, and he is my favorite vendor. He will be bringing his wonderful plants to sell, too! YAY!

In Jason's own words:

Name: Jason Makoto Fischer

Date of birth: 05/12/1976

Nationality: 1/2 Japanese, 1/2 American

I've had a life-long education in orchids by having the opportunity to be raised in a family orchid business. My father had me doing chores around the greenhouse from age 5, which most likely helped me develop an interest in orchids over the years. I took up interest in orchid hybridization and lab work around 14 years of age, and first started breeding with phalaenopsis, which later on lead to paphs and phrags, and now just about anything I can get my hands on that's unique. I continue to work primarily with paph, phrag and neofinetia falcata breeding. I believe we are one of the few companies left who are making an effort to continue the art of breeding paphiopedilum species and hybrids.

I decided to pursue the Japanese language and culture studies in high school and college as I was not raised with the language at home. After 6 years of Japanese language, and completing all the Japanese courses at the University of Minnesota, I quit college to move to Japan where I got married, worked as an English teacher and continued my study of language and culture. I've returned to the US to help out the family business again, and hopefully open the Japanese orchid market to the US, as well

as the US market to Japan. I also frequently visit the Japan Paphioforum held once a year in Mito city.

After living in Japan and making a few important contacts, I am finally able to import rare varieties of Japanese orchid species such as *Neofinetia falcata*. There is such a rich culture and history in the Japanese orchid world that is little understood outside of Japan. I have written an article for the Orchid Digest on the neofinetia of Japan which was published in the spring 2006 issue. I have spent much time studying the history and culture of Japanese orchids, and greatly enjoy sharing this art with others.

Jason will share with us his passion for phragms with a lively slide lecture. He says that he is the natural one to do this lecture since the most famous phrag in the world, *Phrag Jason Fischer*, is named for him.

We thank Lonna and Greg Clarke, Dan Mumau, Mike Lawless, Jeri Lee, and Roberta Schechter in advance for the food and drinks for the meeting.

It is hard to believe that 2007 is already here. We had a fantastic year. Pardon us as we strut our stuff, 2006 style. Looking back at 2006, we have really learned a lot and had great fun. Some of us even bloomed some of our orchids, which always seems like a great miracle and a great blessing- especially here in the scorching, dry desert. We attracted lots of new members and had 135 members at year's end. We advertised in newspapers, on TV, on flyers and on invitation. We provided inexpensive, quality orchids at every meeting and even survived the disappearance of our friend and favorite vendor, Daniel Vong. We hope he will

reappear, but we learned to order orchids that would sell and to get them at a reasonable price (another miracle..) We had fabulous speakers who entertained and informed us and sold lovely, interesting plants. We raffled everything from plants to fertilizers to potting supplies, ate great food and made wonderful new friends. We had an expanded website hosted by Alex McKyton. We added books to our library every month and donated food and money to charities. We participated in an orchid show and two garden shows and won lots of awards. Clarice Dean presented a Species of the Month at every meeting, and we had a very successful field trip to see *Spiranthes diluvialis*. We learned a lot from our show and tell gurus, Mike Levin and Tex Severance and had LOTS more people bringing in their blooming beauties. We began a Culture Desk with Diana Smith answering questions and solving problems. Let us stroll back through 2006 and remember all we did together.

In January, our Seventh Annual White Elephant Sale netted us \$1100 as members outdid themselves carting in their precious- though unwanted- stuff and carting out even more. Charming Jason Fischer did what was to be the best presentation of 2006 on *Neofinetia falcata*. Three books on miniature orchids were donated to the library as well as Flora's Orchids in memory of Steve Nogaim. The newsletter had an article on *Neofinetia falcata*, a poem by Sue Fordyce, and Harold Koopowitz's article on orchid roots.

In February, we proved once again that orchids are even more wonderful than football as we filled our meeting hall to overflowing on Super Bowl Sunday. Everyone received 20 orchid clips and a

heart-shaped lollipop just because we loved you. Mark Dimmitt, Director of Natural History at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum gave a compelling power-point presentation on how to grow outdoors in the desert. The newsletter had three articles I wrote- one on tetraploidy (lots of chromosomes in orchids), another on what makes an orchid an orchid, and the last the editor's proof on an article on buying orchids, published in Orchid Digest later in the year.

In March, Doug Conkin led an animated discussion on integrated pest management in a room filled with blooming orchids. Fred Schechter came up with a gentle insecticide we called "Inschechticide," a great invention of rubbing alcohol and horticultural oil. Doug repotted a member's Valentine orchid, and that occasioned even more lively debate. How fun! The newsletter had an article I wrote on fragrant orchids and another hilarious poem by Sue Fordyce.

In April, there were orchids everywhere at our meeting. A magnificent orchid displays with hundreds of blooming orchids graced the stage after our Spring Garden Show. Our display themed "love and orchids" was a smashing success, and our members won loads of ribbons. THEN, amazingly, we won THREE AOS awards at the Easter Show at the Cal, with Becky Biondi and Mike Levin doing us proud. Our display was the best ever, and many members participated. Clarice Dean won best of show, too! Our speaker, John Salvanti of Parkside Orchids, did a wonderful slide presentation on the 2005 Taiwan Orchid Show and sold his gorgeous orchids. The newsletter had a brilliant article on cattleyas by Clarice Dean as well as the second part of the fragrance article I wrote.

In May, everyone was happy. There was no Cinco de Mayo celebration in the park to give us headaches; members Ken Drake and Claudia Theriot got married (to each other!); Liz Leone and John Haydukavitch adopted our adorable little member Anthony; Jackie Braverman moved back to Las Vegas; I had an article on growing in the desert published in Orchid Digest, featuring a dozen of our members. Harry Phillip, species genius of Andy's Orchids, did a delightful hands-on talk on growing miniature orchids and sold his tiny little beauties. The newsletter had an article on growing in the windowsill and a resource list for growing miniatures from Harry.

In June, a hundred of us sat in a pitch-black room wearing 3-D glasses as Jim Comstock amazed us with his insect's eye view of orchids up close. He carted in a truck's work of equipment and delighted us with his fabulous 3-D orchid images. Mike Levin and Clarice Dean sold plants, and the club sold some beauties from Carmela's Orchids which Eileen ordered. The newsletter had an interview with Jim Comstock and a beautiful article by Diana Smith in praise of species.

In July, our club enjoyed a break from the summer heat as Eldine Stevens opened her lovely Mt Charleston home for a barbecue. Dennis and Clarice Dean graciously did much of the work, and Diana Smith did a wonderful talk on growing on a windowsill.

In August, we enjoyed a wonderful slide lecture on "The Orchids of Peru" by the very famous taxonomist (that's a classifier) Eric Christensen. The McKytos graciously housed him. The raffle had so many plants that everyone got three for a ticket. We sold lots of orchid supplies and

plants from Norito Hasegawa of Paphanatics. Our orchid hunt for *Spiranthes diluvialis* with our mentor Jim Coyner was a huge success, and WE FOUND IT AGAIN. Lucy Jordan gave us a lecture under a huge shade tree, all about the habitat and habits of our thirteenth native orchid. We collected a sample for the herbarium with Nevada Forestry permission. The newsletter had an article on growing under lights, which will be published in Orchid Digest this spring.

In September, the delightful Marni Turkel (housed by the McKytos) introduced us to the wonderful world of coelogyne, dendrochilum and pleione. We sold a ton of supplies and orchids from the Hilo Orchid Farm. Myra Lee Glassman and Gail Harris represented us at the Fall Garden Conference. The newsletter had two articles on growing paphs.

In October, Mike Glikbarg, a favorite orchid grower, overwhelmed us with the most beautiful blooming orchids. His slide lecture introduced us to the glorious world of multifloral paphs, and he kindly donated four books to the library as well. I spoke on the sex life of orchids in Green Bay, Wisconsin. We got rained out of the Day With the Experts, but won lots of awards and made new friends at the Fall Garden Show. The newsletter had an article on "Fidgeting" which many of our members contributed to.

In November, we held elections, and the Board was delighted to be re-elected. Bill Bergstrom shared his colorful orchid adventures in Mexico. The club added a new feature, a Culture Desk, where Diana Smith will answer questions on growing before the meeting. Our club added books to the library, and I had "Freaks and Stinkers" published in OD. The newsletter

had a Christmas orchid poem and an article on growing the most commonly received orchids.

In December, we celebrated another wonderful year together at our holiday party. We drank and sang and ate and got orchids and just had the best time.

Nobody does it better than we do. We look forward to another great year together. May you know peace and joy and friendship- and lots of blooming orchids. Following the newsletter is a little article on the orchids of Hawaii. I visited with friends in Maui and thought an article on this beautiful place and its orchids would be just the thing to finish the year. Much love, Carol 254-4168

growlove@cox.net

THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE IT HAPPEN:

CAROL SIEGEL- PRESIDENT
CLARICE DEAN -VICE-PRESIDENT
EILEEN MCKYTON- SECRETARY
DIANA SMITH-TREASURER
Dan Mumau, Michael Lawless, Marsha Hawley - Membership Hospitality Chairmen
Eileen McKyton/DanHawley-Welcome Desk
Lillian Patterson-Photographer /Historian
Dan Mumau/Mike Lawless/TonyBillitere-Raffle Chairmen
Marsha Hawley- Fund Raising Chairlady
Phyllis Bond, Leslie Doyle,Shelly North and Eileen McKyton- Special Events
Jeri Lee. Myra Glassman and Gail Harris- Nevada State Garden Club Representative
AlexMcKyton-BuildingChairmen&Webmaster
Tex Severance and Mike Levin- Show and Tell Gurus and Judging Chairmen
Scotty Nogaim- Election & Raffle Lady
Terry Wilsey- Club Travel Agent
Steve Ninemire Library Chairman Clarice Dean, Assistant Librarian, Trip Chairman
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COMING ATTRACTIONS...

Our meetings are held at the Nevada Garden Club Building at Twin Lakes and Washington between Valley View and Rancho at the western edge of Lorenzi Park. The meeting starts at 2, but I open the building at 1 for shopping and setup.

November 5, 2006	Bill Bergstrom, "The Orchids of Mexico"
December 3, 2006	Seventh Annual Holiday Party
January 7, 2007	Jason Fischer, "World of Phragmipedium"
February 4, 2007	Steve Frowine, "Orchids for Dummies"
March 4, 2007	Glen Decker, "European Orchid Growing/ Spectacular Phrag Kovachii"
April 1, 2007	Dr. Paul Johnson "Insects and Orchids: Complexities of Global Domination"
May 6, 2006	Doug Conkin, "Growing Cattleyas"
June 3, 2007	Fred Clarke, Sunset Orchids, "The Exciting World of Bulbophyllum"
July 8	"The 15-Minute Solution"- A Culture Day Barbecue Mt Charleston
August 5, 2007	
September 9, 2007	Leon Glicenstein, Hoosier Orchids, "Jewel Orchids"
October 7, 2007	Helen Hersch, "Advanced Windowsill Growing"
November 4, 2007	Greenhouse Tour
December 2, 2007	Eighth Annual Holiday Party

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Pity Poor Hawaii
Carol Siegel

Pity poor Hawaii! Contrary to its image as the lush orchid capitol of the world, Hawaii has only three native orchids, the least of any state in the United States. Yet, orchids are a big part of life in Hawaii, and they are for sale everywhere. Excited, I came down the escalator at the airport to visit my old friends in Maui, and there they were at the foot of the steps holding out purple leis of beautiful *Dendrobium Sonia*. The orchid industry in Hawaii amounts to more than 24 million dollars year, and orchids, leis, and orchid plants are for sale everywhere. As Ted Green says in ORCHIDS IN HAWAII, "Even a ditch digger might be wearing a lei he got at a party the night before." Let's explore the orchid world that is Hawaii.

First, there are the native orchids of Hawaii, terrestrial plants that grow only high in the mountains, which don't look like most people's idea of an orchid at all. They are found only in remote areas, far from roads, and are rare and endangered. They are *Platanthera holochila*, *Liparis hawaiiensis*, and *Aneoctochilus sandvicfnsis*. These plants are very small with green-yellow flowers with whorl-leaves. *Platanthera* and *Liparis* are single-growth plants, but the *Aneoctochilus* creeps and spreads and looks like Wandering Jew.



Platanthera holochila J.K. Ohata



Liparis hawaiiensis. Photography by
G.D. Carr



Aneoctochilus sandvicfnsis.



For the past seventy-five years, Hawaii has become famous for its orchid nurseries. We visited Mike and Carol Blietz of Exotic Orchids of Maui (808-575-2255 www.maiorchids.com info@maiorchids.com) at their gorgeous little nursery. Mike has delighted us with a talk in the past on the cattleyas he grows and promises to visit our club in 2008. (2007 is full!) He spent over an hour with us, graciously showing us his magnificent orchids. Dendrobium, phalaenopsis, laelias, mormodes, acres of cattleyas, and epidendrum were all happily growing in sun-lit greenhouses. He modestly referred to the glorious Hawaii rain and sunshine as "my natural advantage." (Annoyingly, vandas and sobralias were vigorously growing on shrubs outside his nursery. To Las Vegas desert growers, this seems profoundly unfair! Natural advantage, indeed!) Mike is a very successful orchid breeder and proudly showed-off his seed pods (which he harvests green to avoid contamination) and his sterile set-up with its many growing flasks of orchids. He picks the best of his seedlings to grow on and has won many awards with his crosses. He sells to what he calls "the black hole" of the orchid world, the Home Depot and Lowe's and Walmarts who buy tremendous amounts of his orchids and to the public. I have bought orchids from Mike, and they are inexpensive and just beautiful. I will donate some of his budding beauties to the white elephant sale. In order to compete, Mike is expanding his nursery by 9 acres and will also be growing palm trees.

There are many other nurseries in Hawaii. In O'ahu, you find, among others, Kawamoto's, H&R Nurseries, Puanani Orchids, Marty's Orchids, Hawaiian Floral Nursery, Orchid Center, Kodama, Hawai'i Pacific Orchids, Honolulu Orchid Co, and Olomana. In Maui, there are I.N. Komoda, Exotic Orchids of Maui, the Tropical Orchid Farm, and Haiku Maui Orchids and on Kaua'i, you find Hanalei Orchid and Kaua'i Orchids. The Big Island of Hawai'i has the greatest number of commercial growers with Carmela Orchids, Bergstrom Orchids, Hilo Orchid Farm, Cloudforest Orchids among many others. You can type the name of the nursery into Google and have hours of fun looking, learning and buying.

If in Honolulu, stop by the Lyon Orchid Garden at the Foster Botanical Garden where orchids are grown in the open. If you get the chance, be sure to go to an orchid show in Hawaii. Many societies have them annually including the Kunia Orchid Society, the Honolulu Orchid Society, the Hilo Orchid Society, the 'Aiea Orchid Society, the Maui Orchid Society and the Windward Orchid Society. THANKS TO MUTUAL PUBLISHING AND TED GREEN (ORCHIDS IN HAWAII) FOR PERMISSION TO PRINT PHOTOS AND USE INFORMATION.



The Orchid Grower's Christmas

(with apologies to Clement C. Moore)

'T was the night before Christmas, and in the greenhouse
Not a creature was stirring (neither slug, scale, nor mouse).
The seedlings were tucked in their compots with care,
In hopes that some flower spikes soon would be there;
And I had just put on my coat, boots, and cap
To check out the greenhouse before taking a nap,
When up on the roof I heard such a clatter
I looked through the pop-up to see what was the matter.
Then what should appear to my wondering eyes
But Santa Claus, dressed just like Magnum, P.I.
In surfer shorts, sandals, and print shirt so bold —
I couldn't help asking, "Come in. Aren't you cold?"
He slid down the heater pipe (just missing the flue),
Sat down on a bench, and said, "Don't mind if I do!
It's been a long flight, and I'm just a bit tired."
"But where are your reindeer?" "Oh, they've all been fired.
They went out on strike, with the elves and the rest.
So this year, I just sent all my stuff UPS —
Except for the orchids — wouldn't want them to freeze.
Nice phals you've got here." (He paused for a sneeze
and to look at a brasso way up on the shelf.)
"I think they're terrific but can't grow them myself.
It seems that my greenhouse is simply too cold."
I gasped, "You grow ORCHIDS up at the . . . North Pole?"
"Well, of course! Have for years!" replied old St. Nick,
"Though getting those big catts to bloom's quite a trick,
And that dim northern sun tends to shorten most spikes.
Now, I've got something here in my sack that you'd like!"
He pulled out a *Vanda*, a big husky fellow,
And said, "It's my guess that this should be a yellow."
Then he jumped through the pop-up and into his sled.
"But who knows? Coming from Santa, it just might be red!"
And I heard him exclaim as he drove out of sight,
"Blooming orchids to all, and to all a good night!"

— Elaine Cantwell

From: Rosemary Harrison Date: 11/04/06 17:50:46

QUESTIONS ABOUT AUSSIE GOLD MIX AFTER SEVERAL YEARS

Hi Carol!

Here are the answers to the various questions you asked.

1. Should I repot in the same mix?

Absolutely! When repotting an orchid, even if you have just taken it out to look at the roots, is a good opportunity to "freshen" the mix by running Aussie Gold Root Wash (i.e. Physan 20) through the mixture. Whilst AGOM does not deteriorate, using a detergent/fungicide/algaecide can be beneficial at any time, and fluffing AGOM when it has settled can also help the aeration. Adding a little new AGOM (especially when repotting into a larger pot) also helps to restore the mix to its original condition.

2. Should I add some coir to compensate for what has washed out?

I know that everyone waters in a different fashion, but we have found that watering carefully from the top (especially at first) allows the AGOM to settle and after that there should be no problem with losing coir from the bottom of the pot. We personally are set up to water from the bottom and allow the AGOM to wick up, but I know that is not an option for many. There is a natural tendency for the Diatomite to work its way to the top, so repotting and/or root checking time is an excellent opportunity to re-mix the AGOM. If users have lost coir from the pot, we would prefer they simply add a little new AGOM rather than try and estimate how much coir they would need to add. Also, not all coir is created equal, and there are many brands with a high salt content that would damage the orchids.

3. Is there a benefit to putting plants in fresh mix?

Any benefit would be marginal. It is just as easy to run Physan 20 through the mix and add a handful of new AGOM.

4. What if there are dead roots?

Lots of environmental variations can affect an orchid's growth, so some dead roots are to be expected from time to time. It's part of the life cycle. Just follow the original instructions that come with AGOM, cut off the non-productive parts, rinse in Aussie Gold Root Wash (i.e. Physan 20) and repot in fresh or freshened Aussie Gold.

5. What if there is "green stuff" growing on the mix?

The green stuff is good algae. Personally I love to see it growing on the outside of clay pots, like a patina. It does no harm to the Aussie Gold or to the orchid. However, if you do not like to see it, Physan 20 should take care of it.

6. Should perlite, lava rock, etc. be added to AGOM?

We do not recommend adding anything to Aussie Gold. Each formula is